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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. 25X1A2g

INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador/Colombia/Peru

DATE DISTR. 25 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Alleged Peruvian Threat Against Colombia and Ecuador

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PLACE 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. On 26 April 1949 the Ecuadoran Minister of Foreign Relations presided over a secret meeting of the Foreign Relations Consultative Committee.* The meeting was reported to have been of an urgent nature and concerned the political-military situation in Peru and the latter's hostile attitude towards Colombia. The Minister of National Defense, Manuel Diaz Granados, who attended this meeting, allegedly stated that Peru was planning military action against Colombia which would involve Ecuador.**This action is believed to be planned for June 1949 when seasonal factors would be most favorable.
2. A secret meeting of the National Defense Council was held on the same day in the Ministry of National Defense and was presided over by Manuel Diaz Granados. The Minister of Defense again expressed his opinions on the Peruvian-Colombian situation. He added that he had information which indicated that the Peruvians were strengthening their garrisons along the Ecuadoran border. Diaz then delegated a commission of General Staff officers to proceed to the frontiers to investigate the Ecuadoran defenses and the activities of the Peruvians in that area. The commission, scheduled to leave Quito for the frontiers the first week in May 1949, was to be headed by Lt. Col. Cesar Alfaro, Deputy Chief of Staff; Lt. Col. Carlos Patino, G-4, General Staff; and Lt. Col. Ernesto Villasis, G-2, General Staff.
3. In view of the public's anxiety over the Peruvian-Colombian situation, which would probably involve Ecuador, it was rumored that the placards, printed and posted around Quito by the PCE in order to further its peace plans for propaganda*** were actually Peruvian propaganda. This rumor was quoted as fact by Raul Berja at a meeting of the Pichincha Committee of the Liberal Party.

25X1A6a * ~~Comment.~~ It has been ascertained that the meetings of the Foreign Relations Consultative Committee and of the National Defense Council were primarily motivated by the fact that the Ecuadoran authorities had previously apprehended five Peruvian soldiers near Tulcan on the Colombian-Ecuadoran border. These soldiers were turned over to the Colombian authorities. Many of the Ecuadoran officials at these meetings reportedly expressed a desire to take advantage of the present relations between Colombia and Peru by having Ecuador promptly join Colombia against Peru. In this way Ecuador would have an opportunity to eventually realize a readjustment of her boundary settlement of 1942 (Protocol of Rio de Janeiro).

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[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1A6a ** [REDACTED] Comment. The fact that the Minister of National Defense has initiated a study within the Ministry of ways to increase the Army to 10,000 men may have some bearing on his attitude towards Peru. This study, in its present form, contemplates eliminating approximately 1200 civilian employees and replacing them with conscripts. The reduction of civilian employees should permit the Army to order about 6,000 conscripts to active duty and still remain within its budget.

25X1A6a *** [REDACTED] Comment. The placards did not mention the Party's name but stated that certain countries were preparing for war while the Ecuadorans asked only for peace and the opportunity to improve their economic situation. This propaganda was reported to have been directed against the Atlantic Pact as part of the Communist peace offensive (cf. [REDACTED]).

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